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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10 064,787

08 16 2002

Carlos J. Batista

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08 06 2003

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EXAMINER

KEANEY, ELIZABETH MARIE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2882

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/064,787

Applicant(s)

BATISTA ET AL.

Examiner

Elizabeth Gemmell

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 August 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the single type cladding must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

New corrected drawings are required in this application because: see attached reasons from Draftsman. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- line 1: "[Claim Reference]"; should be --2--.
- line 3: "the first cladding" lacks antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1,2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rosine (US Patent 6,311,001).

Re claim 1: Rosine discloses, in figures 5-7 and throughout the disclosure, a microchannel plate (10) for receiving photoelectrons comprising:

- a plate-like substrate web (38) formed from a plurality of microtubules of a single type of cladding glass (34) and defining a pair of opposite faces;
- the substrate web including a plurality of microchannel passages (46) extending between the opposite faces and having openings in both of the opposite faces; and
- the microchannel opening having a funnel-like opening formed in the substrate web at least one of the opposite faces (column 3, line 43).

Re claims 2 and 3: Rosine discloses, in figures 4-6 and throughout the disclosure, the method of manufacturing the microchannel plate formed from:

- first etching a microchannel plate perform including a core glass (32) and the cladding glass (34) for a desired period of time to create the funnel-like openings (18) at the intersection of the core and cladding glass at one of the opposite faces (column 3, lines 51-60);
- the microchannel perform having been first etched is then subjected to a second etching process to remove the remaining core glass forming the plate-like substrate web (column 3, line 61-column 4, line 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilcox (US Patent 4,737,013).

Wilcox discloses, in figure 5 and throughout the disclosure, a method for manufacturing a microchannel plate (22) including the steps of:

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- etching, for a desired period of time, a microchannel plate (22) perform having two opposite faces including
 - a core glass (54) and
 - a first cladding (56)
 - wherein the etching creates funnel-like openings at the intersection of the core and first cladding glass at one or both of the opposite faces (column 4, lines 24-32); and
- etching the microchannel perform to remove the core glass forming the plate-like substrate web (column 4, lines 1-6).

However, Wilcox is silent as to the exact order in which the steps are to be performed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to produce the microchannel plate by etching the cladding prior to etching the cores because the etching order is insignificant. Since two different acids are needed to etch the cladding and the core, one which only etches the cladding and one which only etches the core, the choice of which element is etched first is a matter of choice and it therefore lacks criticality.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

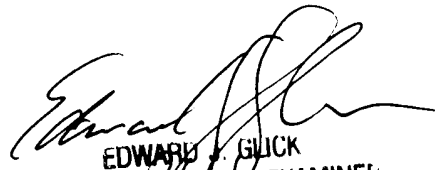
- US Patent 5,565,729 discloses the process of fabricating a microchannel plate by stamping.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth Gemmell whose telephone number is (703) 305-1937. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (703) 308-4858. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

emg
July 30, 2003


EDWARD J. GLICK
Supervisory Patent Examiner
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800